



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Environment Board – Terms of Reference

(updated July 2022)

Background

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) represents Place Directors from county, unitary and metropolitan authorities, along with Local Enterprise Partnerships and corporate partners drawn from key service sectors. ADEPT members are at the very heart of maximising sustainable growth in communities throughout the UK. ADEPT supports members to deliver projects and services key to unlocking broader economic success and creating more resilient communities, economies, infrastructure and natural capital.

The Environment Board

Remit

The Environment Board leads for ADEPT in understanding and responding to strategic issues and policies relating to the environment. The Board understands that, while sometimes in tension, economic growth and the environment are not necessarily in conflict and can be complementary. In all situations sustainable growth requires good quality environmental planning, investment and infrastructure. We advocate that environmental matters – and tackling and adapting to climate change – must be at the heart of decision making.

The Environment Board has a broad and diverse remit including:

- Waste and Material Resource Management
- Flood & water management
- Energy & clean growth
- Natural Capital & heritage
- Climate change: resilience, adaptation and carbon reduction
- Air quality
- Smart and sustainable approaches to environmental services and planning.

The Board's agenda is directed by responses to Climate Change, particularly taking into account learnings from the Covid-19 epidemic, the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (published January 2018) and new environmental legislation associated with EU exit.

Membership

The Board's membership is voluntary and is drawn from Directors and Heads of Service at member local authorities. It also includes representatives from:

- relevant Government departments – DEFRA and BEIS
- delivery bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England
- London Councils/London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet)
- ADEPT corporate partners by invitation for specific issues.

Key posts and appointees are as follows:

- Board Chair: Steve Read (West Sussex)
- Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Chair: Carolyn McKenzie (Surrey)
- Flood & Water Working Group Chair: Max Tant (Kent)
- Waste Working Group Chair: Steve Palfrey (Suffolk)
- Natural Capital Working Group Co-Chairs: Liz Milne (Kent) / Liz Small (N Yorks)
- Climate Change Resilience/LAAP: Nigel Riglar (South Gloucestershire).

Meetings and other activities

The Board meets quarterly with 1-hour monthly catch-ups in between. All meetings have been virtual since March 2020, but it is intended to resume some in-person meetings from Autumn 2022. Meetings cover updates from Working Groups, updates from Government departments and agencies on current issues, and invited speakers on specific topics. In-person quarterly meetings were usually followed by an afternoon workshop on a specific theme, often led by one of the Working Groups.

The Board holds joint meetings with other ADEPT subject Boards on issues of cross-cutting interest such as air quality, the National Planning Policy Framework, and environmental planning. The Board has held occasional joint workshops with external partners on various subjects of mutual interest.

The Board develops and submits responses to Government consultations on relevant policy matters within its remit. The Board Chair and Working Group Chairs meet with Ministers and senior officials on an ad hoc basis to discuss current issues. Chairs and other members have given evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees when invited to do so.

The Board Chair and Working Group Chairs lead plenary and workshop sessions ADEPT conferences. Subjects have included natural capital, air quality, energy, the circular economy, and delivering the government's environmental ambitions. The Chairs also contribute to external conferences and workshops by invitation.

The Board seeks to keep members up to date on current issues, and to share knowledge and best practice between members, by circulating information between meetings.

Reports on the Board's activities

Meeting notes and presentations are on the ADEPT website [here](#) and various consultation responses [here](#). An annual report on the Board's activities is prepared for the ADEPT AGM each May.